



LifeGroups Week 10

Sermon Date:
Mar. 16, 17, 2019

Bible Passage:
2 Corinthians 1:1-11

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of mercies and God of all comfort...”

~ 2 Corinthians 1:3 ESV ~

Discussion starter options: We just heard this past Wednesday how a teenage girl at a Lake Mary High School excused herself from class to go to the restroom and then went into the school gymnasium where she committed suicide. Discuss why it is that so many people hesitate or simply refuse to let others know how depressed they are, or how hard a time they are having coping with the trials and sufferings life sometimes brings.

Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Questions: HEAD – HEART – HANDS

- **HEAD:** These questions help us examine what the Word says
 1. Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-11. Discuss what these verses reveal to us about Paul’s personal struggles as an apostle/missionary.
 2. In this section of scripture (1:1-11), list the various aspects Paul tells us about God in the context of our suffering (i.e., God comforts us, God...etc.)
 3. Notice the emphasis of Paul in regard to God’s response to his suffering and trials: God has been faithful in the past (vv. 8-10), present (v. 10a), and in the future (v. 10b). What does Paul perceive to be one of the “mechanisms” (v. 11) whereby God’s sustaining power is dispensed to help those, like him, who are in need?
 4. The word “comfort” occurs ten times in vv.1-7. In the Greek language of the NT this word means “to come alongside and help.” It’s the same word used for the Holy Spirit (the “Comforter”) in John 14-16. What does this imply about the nature of the comfort God gives us?



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- **HEART:** These questions help us wrestle with what we believe
 5. How does the fact that God permits trials and suffering to come upon us fit with the theology of so many TV preachers that seem to suggest that if we have enough faith we will never suffer, be sick, or lack anything? Did Paul lack faith?

- **HANDS:** These questions help us bring the truth and beliefs into our everyday lives.
 6. In vv. 1-11 Paul seems to be saying that suffering is not really the main issue in suffering, but what we do with suffering and how we handle suffering is the main issue. Do you think this is the proper attitude to take towards suffering?ⁱ What are our alternatives?

 7. Mark said that, “God can use our trials to draw us closer to each other, as we share our burdens together.” Discuss how this works.

 8. Do you know someone who has experienced extreme suffering in their lives, yet seem to exhibit what Paul is teaching us here in 2 Corinthians 1:1-11? What’s their secret?

ⁱ See Jesus words in John 16:33.